

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 Claim 1. (currently amended) A method of scheduling a media object for
2 transmission between a server and a client, the method comprising:
3 partitioning the media object into segments, wherein the segments contain one or
4 more blocks, wherein each block is a unit of media for which the client will wait to receive an
5 entire block before playing out the block, and wherein each segment includes an integer number
6 of blocks and wherein blocks are encoded into output symbols such that the output symbols
7 generated are independent of when a client begins reception, wherein the output symbols are
8 encoded such that to be served when the output symbols are transmitted to the client, the output
9 symbols are transmitted in an order a manner that is independent of the output symbols
10 previously transmitted to received by the client;
11 determining one or more channels on which to serve each segment, the channels
12 capable of carrying data between the server and the client;
13 determining a rate at which to serve each segment; and
14 determining a schedule pair for each channel, the schedule pair including a time at
15 which the client may start receiving on the channel and a time at which the client may stop
16 receiving on the channel.

1 Claim 2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein if the client minimally fulfills
2 the schedule pair for each channel, the client will be able to play out the media object
3 uninterrupted after a startup latency.

1 Claim 3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the partitioning step includes
2 first partitioning the media object into segments, then partitioning each segment into an integer
3 number of blocks.

1 Claim 4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the partitioning step includes
2 first partitioning the media object into blocks, then grouping the blocks into segments.

1 Claim 5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein a maximum download rate at
2 the client is less than an aggregate server transmission rate.

1 Claim 6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the client is
2 configured with a maximum download rate that does not limit the rate that each segment is
3 served.

1 Claim 7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein a maximum download rate at
2 the client is only slightly greater than a media object play out rate.

1 Claim 8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein a maximum download rate at
2 the client is less than a media object play out rate.

1 Claim 9. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one segment includes
2 more than one block.

1 Claim 10. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein each segment includes
2 exactly one block.

1 Claim 11. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein a plurality of blocks in a
2 segment are a same size.

1 Claim 12. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein a plurality of blocks in a
2 plurality of segments are a same size.

1 Claim 13. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least two of the channels
2 are served at different rates.

1 Claim 14. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least two segments have
2 different sizes.

1 Claim 15. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein each block in each segment
2 is served at a same rate.

1 Claim 16. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one block in at least
2 one segment is served at a rate different than other blocks in the segment.

1 Claim 17. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the segments are served at a
2 rate less than a play out rate.

1 Claim 18. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one segment is
2 served on at least two channels, and wherein each of the at least two channels is served at a rate.

1 Claim 19. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein the each of the at least two
2 channels are served at a same rate.

1 Claim 20. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein at least two of the each of
2 the at least two channels are served at different rates.

1 Claim 21. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the number of channels is
2 less than or equal to a maximum number of concurrent channels at the client.

1 Claim 22. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the client can minimally
2 fulfill the schedule pair for each channel by downloading from a maximum number of concurrent
3 channels.

1 Claim 23. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the number of channels is
2 less than or equal to a maximum number of concurrent channels served by the server.

1 Claim 24. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the partitioning,
2 determining one or more channels, determining a rate, and determining a schedule pair steps are
3 performed so as to optimize a server bandwidth required to serve the media object.

1 Claim 25. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the partitioning,
2 determining one or more channels, determining a rate, and determining a schedule pair steps are

3 performed so that the media object is served to the client at a rate less than or equal to a
4 maximum client download rate.

1 Claim 26. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising, for each of the
2 plurality of segments, determining a size of the segment so that the segment is completely
3 downloaded by the client prior to when the segment is due to be played out.

1 Claim 27. (original) The method of claim 26 wherein, for each of the plurality of
2 segments, the rate at which to serve the segment is an integer multiple of a base rate.

1 Claim 28. (original) The method of claim 26 wherein all of the segments are
2 served at a same rate.

1 Claim 29. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising, for each of a
2 plurality of segments:

3 if the segment may be scheduled to be served to the client without exceeding a
4 maximum client download rate, scheduling the segment to be served to the client; and

5 if the segment may not be scheduled to be served to the client without exceeding
6 the maximum client download rate, waiting to schedule the segment to be served until one or
7 more other segments are scheduled to end being downloaded at the client.

1 Claim 30. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the partitioning,
2 determining one or more channels, determining a rate, and determining a schedule pair steps are
3 performed so as to optimize a number of concurrent channels at the server required to serve the
4 media object.

1 Claim 31. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein sizes of a plurality of blocks
2 are each less than or equal to a maximum block size.

1 Claim 32. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein sizes of a plurality of
2 segments are each less than or equal to a maximum segment size.

1 Claim 33. (original) The method of claim 32 wherein the maximum segment size
2 is based on a maximum available storage at the client.

1 Claim 34. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein sizes of a plurality of blocks
2 are each greater than or equal to a minimum block size.

1 Claim 35. (original) The method of claim 34 wherein the minimum block size is
2 determined by an encoding scheme.

1 Claim 36. (original) The method of claim 34 wherein the minimum block size is
2 determined by a media object player data format.

1 Claim 37. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the partitioning step
2 includes, for each of a plurality of segments, determining a start point of the segment and an end
3 point of the segment based upon requirements of a media object player data format.

1 Claim 38. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the partitioning step
2 includes, for each of a plurality of blocks, determining a start point of the block and an end point
3 of the block based upon requirements of a media object player data format.

1 Claim 39. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the rate and the schedule
2 pair are based on a maximum available storage at the client.

1 Claim 40. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the rate varies over time.

1 Claim 41. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one segment is
2 served on at least two channels, and wherein a rate at which the segment is served on one of the
3 at least two channels varies over time.

1 Claim 42. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein a set of channels serving at
2 least one segment varies over time.

1 Claim 43. (currently amended) A system for scheduling a media object for
2 transmission between a server and a client, comprising:
3 a module for partitioning the media object into segments, wherein the segments
4 contain one or more blocks, wherein each block is a unit of media for which the client will wait
5 to receive an entire block before playing out the block, and wherein each segment includes an
6 integer number of blocks and wherein blocks are encoded into output symbols such that the
7 output symbols generated are independent of when a client begins reception wherein the output
8 symbols are encoded such that when the output symbols are to be transmitted to the client, the
9 output symbols are transmitted in a manner that is ~~in an order~~ independent of the output symbols
10 transmitted to previously received by the client;
11 a module for determining one or more channels on which to serve each segment,
12 the channels capable of carrying data between the server and the client;
13 a module for determining a rate at which to serve each segment; and
14 a module for determining a schedule pair for each channel, the schedule pair
15 including a time at which the client may start receiving on the channel and a time at which the
16 client may stop receiving on the channel.

1 Claim 44. (currently amended) A method of serving a media object, the method
2 comprising:
3 receiving segments of a media object, wherein each segment includes an integer
4 number of blocks, wherein each block is a unit of media for which a client will wait to receive an
5 entire block before playing out the block, and wherein each block includes one or more input
6 symbols;
7 for each segment, receiving an indication of one or more channels on which to
8 serve the segment;
9 for each segment, receiving a rate at which to serve the segment;
10 determining an order in which to encode blocks;
11 generating output symbols for each block ~~in the order~~ using a chain reaction code
12 to generate the output symbols; and

13 transmitting the output symbols on the corresponding one or more channels,
14 wherein each segment is served at the corresponding rate.

1 Claim 45. (original) The method of claim 44 further comprising providing one or
2 more storage devices on which to store the media object.

1 Claim 46. (original) The method of claim 44 wherein the receiving a rate step
2 includes receiving an aggregate rate at which to serve the segment on the one or more channels.

1 Claim 47. (original) The method of claim 44 wherein the receiving a rate step
2 includes, for each of the one or more channels on which to serve the segment, receiving a rate at
3 which to serve the segment on the each of the one or more channels.

1 Claim 48. (original) The method of claim 44 wherein a server serves at least two
2 media objects concurrently.

1 Claim 49. (original) The method of claim 44 wherein a media object is
2 concurrently served on at least two servers.

1 Claim 50. (original) The method of claim 49 wherein at least one segment is
2 concurrently served on at least two servers.

1 Claim 51. (original) The method of claim 49 wherein at least one segment is
2 served on only one server.

1 Claim 52. (original) The method of claim 44 wherein the media object is served
2 on unicast channels.

1 Claim 53. (original) The method of claim 44 wherein the media object is served
2 on multicast channels.

1 Claim 54. (original) The method of claim 44 wherein the media object is served
2 on broadcast channels.

1 Claim 55. (canceled).

1 Claim 56. (original) The method of claim 44 wherein generating output symbols
2 includes using a FEC code to generate output symbols.

1 Claim 57. (original) The method of claim 56 wherein all of the output symbols
2 in a block are generated before transmitting any of the output symbols in the block.

1 Claim 58. (original) The method of claim 56 wherein for some or all of the
2 plurality of output symbols, each of the some or all of the output symbols is generated upon a
3 first transmission of the output symbol on the channel.

1 Claim 59. (original) The method of claim 56, further including determining an
2 order in which to transmit output symbols corresponding to a block, and wherein transmitting
3 output symbols includes transmitting output symbols corresponding to a block in the order.

1 Claim 60. (original) The method of claim 59 wherein the order is determined
2 according to a random or pseudo-random sequence.

1 Claim 61. (original) The method of claim 44, further including determining an
2 order in which to transmit output symbols for each block in a segment, and wherein transmitting
3 output symbols includes, for each segment, transmitting output symbols corresponding to each
4 block in the order.

1 Claim 62. (original) The method of claim 61 wherein the order is determined
2 according to a random or pseudo-random sequence.

1 Claim 63. (original) The method of claim 44 wherein input symbols are used as
2 output symbols.

1 Claim 64. (original) The method of claim 44 wherein a server transitions
2 between serving a first media object and a second media object by successively stopping the
3 serving of segments for the first media object and successively starting the serving of segments
4 for the second media object.

1 Claim 65. (original) The method of claim 44 wherein the rate at least one
2 segment is served on a channel varies over time.

1 Claim 66. (original) The method of claim 44 wherein at least one segment is
2 served on at least two channels.

1 Claim 67. (original) The method of claim 44 wherein, for at least one segment,
2 the one or more channels on which the segment is served varies over time.

1 Claim 68. (currently amended) An apparatus for serving a media object,
2 comprising:

3 a block encoder coupled to receive segments of a media object, wherein each
4 segment includes an integer number of blocks, wherein each block is a unit of media for which a
5 client will wait to receive an entire block before playing out the block, wherein each block
6 includes one or more input symbols; the block encoder including an input to receive an order in
7 which to encode the blocks; and wherein the block encoder is configured to generate, in the
8 order, output symbols for each block wherein blocks are encoded into output symbols such that
9 the output symbols generated are independent of when a client begins reception, wherein the
10 output symbols are encoded such that when the output symbols are transmitted to be served to
11 the client, the output symbols are transmitted in a manner that is in an order independent of the
12 output symbols transmitted to previously received by the client; and

13 a transmitter coupled to receive the output symbols from the block encoder, and
14 coupled to receive, for each segment, an indication of one or more channels on which to serve
15 the segment and a rate at which to serve the segment;

16 said transmitter configured to serve the output symbols on the corresponding one
17 or more channels at the corresponding rate.

1 Claim 69. (previously presented) A method of receiving a media object that
2 includes segments, wherein each segment includes an integer number of blocks, and wherein
3 each block is a unit of media for which a client will wait to receive an entire block before playing
4 out the block, the method comprising:

5 receiving a media object description of the media object;
6 joining and leaving each of a plurality of channels according to the media object
7 description to download the blocks as a plurality of output symbols wherein the output symbols
8 are encoded such that the output symbols need not depend on when joining and leaving occurs,
9 wherein the output symbols are encoded such that when the output symbols are transmitted to the
10 client, the output symbols are transmitted to be received by the client in a manner an order
11 independent of the output symbols transmitted to previously received by the client;
12 reassembling the blocks in each segment; and
13 playing the blocks out in an order after a startup latency.

1 Claim 70. (original) The method of claim 69 wherein a client joins channels
2 according to an order in the media object description.

1 Claim 71. (original) The method of claim 69 wherein, reassembling the blocks of
2 a first segment and playing out the blocks of a second segment occur concurrently.

1 Claim 72. (original) The method of claim 69 wherein segments are downloaded
2 on unicast channels.

1 Claim 73. (original) The method of claim 69 wherein segments are downloaded
2 on multicast channels.

1 Claim 74. (original) The method of claim 69 wherein segments are downloaded
2 on broadcast channels.

1 Claim 75. (original) The method of claim 69 wherein a plurality of segments are
2 downloaded concurrently at an aggregate rate, and wherein the aggregate rate is less than a
3 maximum download rate.

1 Claim 76. (original) The method of claim 69 wherein the media object is
2 downloaded by a client at a rate less than an aggregate server transmission rate.

1 Claim 77. (original) The method of claim 69 wherein the media object is
2 downloaded by a client at an unconstrained rate.

1 Claim 78. (original) The method of claim 69 wherein the media object is
2 downloaded by a client at a rate only slightly greater than a media object play out rate.

1 Claim 79. (original) The method of claim 69 wherein the media object is
2 downloaded by a client at a rate less than a media object play out rate.

1 Claim 80. (original) The method of claim 69 wherein joining and leaving a
2 plurality of channels includes downloading at least a first segment upon the ending of the
3 downloading of a second segment.

1 Claim 81. (original) The method of claim 69 wherein a rate at which the media
2 object is downloaded may be adjusted by joining and leaving channels.

1 Claim 82. (original) The method of claim 81 wherein a client increases its
2 reception rate by adding channels according to an order and decreases its reception rate by
3 dropping channels either in a reverse of the order, or when a segment completes downloading on
4 that channel.

1 Claim 83. (original) The method of claim 81 wherein a client increases its
2 reception rate when it experiences no congestion and decreases its reception rate when it
3 experiences congestion.

1 Claim 84. (original) The method of claim 69 wherein the blocks include original
2 data, and wherein reassembling the blocks in each segment includes reordering the original data
3 according to its temporal position in each block.

1 Claim 85. (original) The method of claim 69 wherein reassembling the blocks in
2 each segment includes decoding with a FEC decoder.

1 Claim 86. (original) The method of claim 69 wherein reassembling the blocks in
2 each segment includes decoding with a chain reaction decoder..

1 Claim 87. (original) The method of claim 69 wherein a single media object is
2 downloaded from at least two servers.

1 Claim 88. (original) The method of claim 87 wherein at least one segment is
2 downloaded from at least two servers.

1 Claim 89. (original) The method of claim 87 wherein at least one segment is
2 downloaded from only one server.

1 Claim 90. (original) The method of claim 69 wherein a same segment in the
2 media object is downloaded from at least two servers.

1 Claim 91. (original) The method of claim 69 further comprising playing out a
2 pre-downloaded segment during the startup latency.

1 Claim 92. (original) The method of claim 69 wherein the media object is
2 downloaded by a client from a maximum number of channels concurrently.

1 Claim 93. (original) The method of claim 69 wherein a set of channels on which
2 at least one segment is downloaded varies over time.

1 Claim 94. (currently amended) A system for receiving a media object that
2 includes segments, wherein each segment includes an integer number of blocks, and wherein
3 each block is a unit of media for which a client will wait to receive an entire block before playing
4 out the block, comprising:

5 a module for handling input of a media object description of the media object;
6 a module for handling channel joins and channel leaves for each of a plurality of
7 channels according to the media object description, wherein the channels are capable of use for
8 downloading the blocks to the client as a plurality of output symbols wherein the output symbols
9 are encoded such that the output symbols need not depend on when joining and leaving occurs,
10 wherein the output symbols are encoded such that when transmitted to be received by the client,
11 the output symbols are transmitted in an order a manner that is independent of the output
12 symbols transmitted to previously received by the client;

13 a module for reassembling the blocks in each segment; and
14 a module for playing the blocks out in an order after a startup latency.

1 Claim 95. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the blocks are
2 encoded into the output symbols according to a chain reaction code.